and enhanced competition, ITDC hotels in the State of Rajasthan are incurring losses.

(c) and (d) Development of Tourist Places is primarily under-taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance for tourism project prioritised in consultation with them every year. During the current financial year, 15 projects of Rajasthan with Central Component of Rs. 355.40 lakhs has been prioritised.

Opening of new duty free shops by ITDC

1197. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) propose to open more duty free shops at the international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the number of existing Duty Free Shops, their location, the number of new shops proposed to be opened;

(c) whether Government have contacted or propose to request Germany and the Netherlands and the concerned agencies of other countries to have an Indian counter for marketing its products; and

(d) if so, whether they have reacted favourably to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Presently, ITDC is operating 34 duty free shops at 9 airports *viz.* Delhi (10), Mumbai (11), Chennai (2), Calcutta (2), Thiruvananthapuram (2), Goa (2), Calicut (2), Hyderabad (2) and Bangalore (1). Four more duty free shops at the airports of Ahmedabad (2), Bangalore (1) and Varanasi (1) are proposed to be opened in due course.

(c) and (d) Presently, ITDC has no proposal to have Indian counters at duty free shops abroad for marketing Indian products.